

Tippecanoe County Board of Commissioners

Special Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 25, 2020

10:00 am

Tippecanoe Room, Tippecanoe County Office Building
20 N 3rd Street, Lafayette, Indiana

Commissioners present President Tracy A. Brown, Vice President Thomas P. Murtaugh and Member David S. Byers.

Also present: Attorney Doug Masson, Auditor Robert Plantenga, and Recording Secretary Jennifer Wafford, Attending virtually: Commissioner's Assistant Paula Bennett

I. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – President Brown called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance

II. **PRESENTATION OF PAYROLL** – Paula Bennett

The payroll from November 25, 2020 was recommended for approval without exception.

- Commissioner Murtaugh moved to approve the Payroll as presented, second by Commissioner Byers. Motion carried.

III. **OPENING OF BIDS FOR CENTRAL OFFICES PHASE 2**

The following bids were opened for Phase 2 of the Central Offices project:

<u>Class/Contractor</u>	<u>Base Bid</u>	<u>Alt.#1</u>
Combination Bids:		
Craig Wagner Electric (2I, J)	\$396,645.00	-\$1,700.00
Huston Electrical (2I, J)	\$413,622.00	-\$753.00
2A-General Trades		
Big Ben Builders	\$611,100.00	\$19,125.00
Shepler Const.	\$429,400.00	\$23,183.00
Spencer Const.	\$689,400.00	\$33.45/ea
2B-Millwork/Casework:		
Deerwood Group	\$89,643.75	Ø
2C-Hollow Metal Frames, Doors, and Hardware:		
Mulhaupts	\$231,586.00	Ø
2D-Floor Covering:		
Jackie Laurie	\$198,700.00	Ø
Blakely Corp	\$215,625.00	Ø
2E-Painting and Wall Coverings:		
Anthony Anderson Corp	\$77,900.00	\$1,500.00
Bill Lawrence Company	\$72,300.00	\$250.00
Heritage Classic Const.	\$65,500.00	\$1,200.00
2F-Fire Suppression:		
Grunau Company	\$124,960.00	Ø
Brenneco Inc.	\$149,124.81	Ø

2G-Plumbing:

D.A. Dodd LLC	\$237,000.00	Ø
Quality Plumbing & Heating	\$189,000.00	Ø

2H-Heating, Ventilating, and Air Conditioning (HVAC):

Wright Hardware Co.	\$286,249.00	Ø
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2I-Electrical:

Brand Electric	\$423,900.00	-\$1,100.00
Fissle Electric Service	\$544,800.00	-\$1,900.00
Huston Electric	\$388,320.00	-\$753.00
Long Electric	\$653,580.00	-\$1,000.00

2J-Fire Detection and Alarm:

Brand Electric	\$21,450.00	Ø
Grunau Co	\$27,435.00	Ø
Huston Electric	\$28,712.00	Ø
Mulhaupt	\$22,185.00	Ø

2K-Site Excavation and Utilities:

Davidson Excavating	\$297,903.00	Ø
Reith-Riley	\$245,693.00	Ø
Fairfield Contractors	\$197,973.00	Ø

- Commissioner Murtaugh moved to take the bids under advisement, second by Commissioner Byers. Motion carried.

IV. RESOLUTION NO. 2020-30-CM, Renewal of Syringe Exchange Program

Attorney Masson stated that this resolution would renew the Syringe Exchange Program for another two years. The initial formation of this program required a public hearing, but the program's extension does not technically require one. If passed, this resolution would extend the program until December 2022.

Dr. Jeremy Adler then presented data on the Syringe Services Program called Gateway to Hope. The information summarized covers data from the program's inception in August 2017 through September 30, 2020. Gateway to Hope is a harm-reduction program. It is an evidenced-based response to a local health emergency due to rising Hepatitis C infections.

The purpose of this program is to reduce the new Hepatitis C infections, prevent an HIV outbreak in our county, provide safe disposal of used syringes, and serve as a path to treatment by linking participants to drug treatment, healthcare, and social services. The program is currently operating out of the Lafayette Transitional Housing Center, located at 815 N. 12th Street. The Health Department also obtained a Mobile unit that typically runs at the IU Arnett Clinic on Greenbush Street. However, the mobile clinic is currently on hold due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Since the beginning of the Syringe Exchange Program, the Health Department has seen 524 participants. The total number of syringes distributed was 97,116, and the total collected was 143,837. The syringe collection vs. distribution rate for returning participants is 91.4% for Tippecanoe County, and the state benchmark is 80%.

Commissioner Murtaugh asked Dr. Adler how Tippecanoe County compared to other counties in Indiana regarding the distribution and collection of syringes for returning participants. He was advised that other counties range from 50%-60%, and we are at 71.9%

The Gateway to Hope program has also provided Hepatitis C and HIV testing services to its participants. These tests are voluntary and not required to participate in the Syringe Exchange program. In addition to the testing provided, 173 referrals were made to Mental Health Services, 1441 doses of Narcan were provided to participants, and other testing and insurance navigation services were provided to participants.

Regarding Hepatitis C testing, 32 new chronic cases have been identified in 2020. Khala Hochstedler, Health Department Administrator, advised that these tests were completed in the first three months of 2020, and the numbers are lower than normal due to the impact of COVID-19 on testing abilities. Dr. Adler advised Tippecanoe County has been very fortunate to have a relatively low number of HIV cases, and the purpose of this program is to keep those numbers low.

Commissioner Byers asked when the Health Department moves to the former YMCA location, will the location of the Syringe Exchange Program stay in the same location. Dr. Adler advised that the location of the program will stay at the Lafayette Transitional Housing center.

Commissioner Byers asked Dr. Adler how many people have been referred to and are in active treatment through this program. Khala Hochstedler responded that, of the total participants since the program start, 12 individuals have been identified as being in active recovery this year, and 84 were referred to treatment from September 2019- August 2020.

Public comments:

There were 29 individuals that were in support of the renewal, and 1 individual opposed to the renewal, who submitted their comment via email to the Commissioner's Office.

The individuals in favor of the renewal are Rhonda Stein, Barby Halliday, Laura Gorden, Jim Volez, Carla Evich, Joseph Kasper, Arissa Beck, Carmen Trapp, Rebecca Peters, Alli Chaney, Kirsten Reynolds, Faith Giordano, Rachel Metzger, Lauren Murfree, Margaret Hass, Haley Steidinger, Clinton Alexander, Amanda Estes, Alex Mason, Nicole McCabe, Shelia Rosenthal, Shannon Stanis, Melissa Gruver, Rachel Barton, Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) Greater Lafayette, Kirsten Gibson, Chad Rainey, Angela Hanyok, Melissa Gruver.

The individual who was opposed to the renewal was: Caiden Bennett.

Additional public comments from Facebook were read by Max Wailing:

Melissa Gruver stated, "The Gateway to Hope program is one of the best things about our county. The trust that is built during these exchanges really allows people to say yes to other services & Hep C & HIV testing. We all benefit from this work."

Scott Brown asked, "What is the annual budget of this program every year?" Amanda Balser from the Health department advised that this program is funded through Grants from; The Foundation of Greater Indianapolis, Drug-Free Coalition, and Indiana State Department of Health. Community Corrections and the Health department receive grants to fund the Recovery coach for this program.

Commissioner Brown advised that a letter had been received from the Indiana State Health Commissioner, Christina Box, in support of the program's renewal.

Jason Huber, Community Corrections Executive Director, spoke in favor of the Syringe Exchange Program renewal. He stated that the Community Corrections department and its participants benefit from this program and from the work Grace Patton provides as their recovery coach.

Commissioner Murtaugh stated that he commends and supports the work being done with substance abuse and realizes there is an issue with it in our county. However, he is not in favor of the syringe exchange program and cannot vote in favor of the renewal.

- Commissioner Byers moved to approve RES 2020-30-CM as presented, second by Commissioner Brown. Motion carried with a "No" vote from Commissioner Tom Murtaugh.

V. UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS

Amanda Balser, from the Tippecanoe County Health Department, presented an MOU with the YMCA Greater Lafayette to provide building and facility resources for an emergency day shelter related to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Due to an increase in COVID-19 numbers within the community, the Health Department had to put a hold on allowing any new individuals to enter the Lafayette Transitional Housing Center (LTHC) or Lafayette Urban Ministries (LUM) shelters. As a result, an emergency day shelter was needed for the homeless population in the county. The day shelter/warming station will be open from 9 am – 9 pm, seven days a week, and will be staffed by Phoenix Paramedic Solutions. The shelter will allow 12 people inside at a time to allow for the 6-ft social distancing requirements.

- Commissioner Murtaugh moved to approve the MOU as presented, second by Commissioner Byers. Motion carried.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

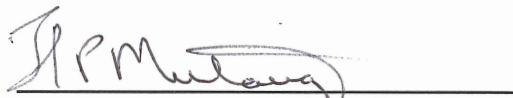
Commissioner Byers commented that this would be the last meeting for Dave Bangert, a reporter with The Journal and Courier, as he is retiring. Commissioner Brown thanked him for his service to the community and expressed his appreciation for his approach to writing stories.

Commissioner Byers moved to adjourn. President Brown adjourned the meeting.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF TIPPECANOE



Tracy A. Brown, President



Thomas P. Murtaugh, Vice-President



David S. Byers, Member

ATTEST:



Robert A. Plantenga, Auditor 12/21/2020

